

REMARKS

It is believed that this Amendment, in conjunction with the following remarks, place the application in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment and favorable consideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 1-18, 20-24, 26 and 27 are allowed.

I. **THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION OF CLAIMS 19 AND 25**

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 19 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,272) in view of Field (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,104). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

Applicant has canceled claims 19 and 25 from the pending application.¹ Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now allowable over the cited references.

II. **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

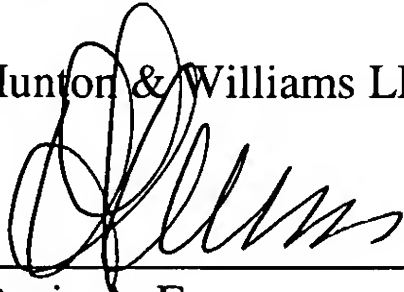
¹ Applicant intends to pursue claims 19 and 25 in a continuation application.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,
including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess
fees to the same deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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